

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

SARAH GENENBACHER, individually)	
and on behalf of all others similarly)	
situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. 4:25-cv-00084-JAR
)	
v.)	
)	
LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, all the parties to this action (collectively, the “Parties,” and individually, a “Party”) request that this Court issue a protective order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), to protect the confidentiality of certain nonpublic and confidential material that will be exchanged pursuant to and during the course of discovery in this case (the “Protective Order”); and

WHEREAS, the Parties, through counsel, agree to the following terms; and

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that this Protective Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords only extends to the limited information or items that are entitled, under the applicable legal principles, to confidential treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Parties further acknowledge that this Protective Order does not create entitlement to file confidential information under seal; and

WHEREAS, in light of these acknowledgements, and based on the representations of the Parties that discovery in this case will involve confidential documents or information the public

disclosure of which will cause harm to the producing person and/or third party to whom a duty of confidentiality is owed, and to protect against injury caused by dissemination of confidential documents and information, this Court finds good cause for issuance of an appropriately tailored confidentiality order governing the pretrial phase of this action.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person subject to this Protective Order—including without limitation the parties to this action, their representatives, agents, experts and consultants, all third parties providing discovery in this action, and all other interested persons with actual or constructive notice of this Protective Order—shall adhere to the following terms:

1. Any person subject to this Protective Order who receives from any other person subject to this Protective Order any “Discovery Material” (i.e., information of any kind produced or disclosed pursuant to and in the course of discovery in this action) that is designated as “Confidential” pursuant to the terms of this Protective Order (hereinafter “Confidential Discovery Material”) shall not disclose such Confidential Discovery Material to anyone else except as expressly permitted hereunder.
2. The person producing any given Discovery Material may designate as Confidential only such portion of such material the public disclosure of which either is restricted by law or will cause harm to the business, commercial, financial or personal interests of the producing person and/or a third party to whom a duty of confidentiality is owed and that consists of:
 - (a) previously nondisclosed financial information (including without limitation profitability reports or estimates, percentage fees, design fees, royalty rates, minimum guarantee payments, sales reports and

sales margins);

- (b) previously nondisclosed information relating to ownership or control of any non-public company;
- (c) previously nondisclosed sensitive commercial information relating to any party's business including, but not limited to, tax data; proposed strategic transactions or other business combinations; internal audit practices, procedures and outcomes; trade secrets; marketing plans and strategies; studies or analyses by internal or outside experts; competitive analyses; customer or prospective customer lists and information; product or service pricing or billing agreements or guidelines; and/or confidential project-related information;
- (d) any information of a personal or intimate nature regarding any individual; or
- (e) any other category of information hereinafter given confidential status by the Court.

3. With respect to the Confidential portion of any Discovery Material other than deposition transcripts and exhibits, the producing person or that person's counsel may designate such portion as "Confidential" by: (a) stamping or otherwise clearly marking as "Confidential" the protected portion in a manner that will not interfere with legibility or audibility; and (b) producing for future public use another copy of said Discovery Material with the Confidential information redacted.
4. With respect to deposition transcripts, a producing person or that person's counsel may designate such portion as Confidential either by (a) indicating on the record

during the deposition that a question calls for Confidential information, in which case the reporter will bind the transcript of the designated testimony (consisting of question and answer) in a separate volume and mark it as “Confidential Information Governed by Protective Order”; or (b) notifying the reporter and all counsel of record, in writing, within 30 days after a deposition has concluded, of the specific pages and lines of the transcript and/or the specific exhibits that are to be designated Confidential, in which case all counsel receiving the transcript will be responsible for marking the copies of the designated transcript or exhibit (as the case may be), in their possession or under their control as directed by the producing person or that person’s counsel by the reporter. During the 30-day period following the conclusion of a deposition, the entire deposition transcript will be treated as if it had been designated Confidential, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

5. If at any time prior to the trial of this action, a producing person realizes that some portion(s) of Discovery Material that she, he or it previously had produced without limitation should be designated as Confidential, she, he or it may so designate by so apprising all prior recipients of the Discovery Material in writing, and thereafter such designated portion(s) of the Discovery Material thereafter will be deemed to be and treated as Confidential under the terms of this Protective Order.
6. No person subject to this Protective Order other than the producing person shall disclose any of the Discovery Material designated by the producing person as Confidential to any other person whomsoever, except to:
 - (a) the Parties to this action, their insurers, and counsel to their insurers;
 - (b) counsel retained specifically for this action, including any paralegal,

clerical and other assistant employed by such counsel and assigned to this matter;

- (c) outside vendors or service providers (such as copy-service providers and document-management consultants, graphic production services or other litigation support services) that counsel hire and assign to this matter, including computer service personnel performing duties in relation to a computerized litigation system;
- (d) any mediator or arbitrator who the Parties engage in this matter or that this Court appoints, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto;
- (e) as to any document, its author, its addressee and any other person indicated on the face of the document as having received a copy;
- (f) any witness who counsel for a Party in good faith believes may be called to testify at trial or deposition in this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto;
- (g) any person retained by a Party to serve as an expert witness or otherwise provide specialized advice to counsel in connection with this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto;
- (h) stenographers engaged to transcribe depositions conducted in this action; and

- (i) this Court, including any appellate court, and the court reporters and support personnel for the same.
- 7. Prior to any disclosure of any Confidential Discovery Material to any person referred to in subparagraphs 6(d), 6(f) or 6(g) above, such person shall be provided by counsel with a copy of this Protective Order and shall sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto stating that that person has read this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its terms. Said counsel shall retain each signed Non-Disclosure Agreement, hold it in escrow, and produce it to opposing counsel either prior to such person being permitted to testify (at deposition or trial) or at the conclusion of the case, whichever comes first.
- 8. Any Party who objects to any designation of confidentiality may at any time prior to the trial of this action serve upon counsel for the designating person a written notice stating with particularity the grounds of the objection. If the Parties cannot reach agreement promptly, counsel for all Parties will address their dispute to this Court.
- 9. A Party may be requested to produce Discovery Material that is subject to contractual or other obligations of confidentiality owed to a third party. Within two business days of receiving the request, the receiving Party subject to such obligation shall inform the third party of the request and that the third party may seek a protective order or other relief from this Court. If neither the third party nor the receiving Party seeks a protective order or other relief from this Court within 21 days of that notice, the receiving Party shall produce the information responsive to the discovery request but may affix the appropriate controlling designation.

10. Recipients of Confidential Discovery Material under this Protective Order may use such material solely for the prosecution and defense of this action and any appeals thereto, and specifically (and by way of example and not limitation) may not use Confidential Discovery Material for any business, commercial or competitive purpose, or for prosecution or defense of any other action or proceeding. Nothing contained in this Protective Order, however, will affect or restrict the rights of any person with respect to its own documents or information produced in this action. Nor does anything contained in this Protective Order limit or restrict the rights of any person to use or disclose information or material obtained independently from discovery between the undersigned parties.
11. Nothing in this Protective Order will prevent any person subject to it from producing any Confidential Discovery Material in its possession in response to a lawful subpoena or other compulsory process, or if required to produce by law or by any government agency having jurisdiction; provided, however, that such person receiving a request, will provide written notice to the producing person before disclosure and as soon as reasonably possible, and, if permitted by the time allowed under the request, at least 10 days before any disclosure. Upon receiving such notice, the producing person will have the right to oppose compliance with the subpoena, other compulsory process, or other legal notice if the producing person deems it appropriate to do so.
12. Any Party filing a motion or any other papers with the Court under seal shall also publicly file a redacted copy of the same, via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system, that redacts only the Confidential Discovery Material itself, and not text

that in no material way reveals the Confidential Discovery Material.

13. Each person who has access to Discovery Material that has been designated as Confidential shall take all due precautions to prevent the unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of such material.
14. Any Personally Identifying Information (“PII”) (e.g., Social Security numbers, financial account numbers, passwords, and information that may be used for identity theft) exchanged in discovery shall be maintained by the persons who receive such information and are bound by this Protective Order in a manner that is secure and confidential. In the event that the person receiving PII experiences a data breach, she, he or it immediately shall notify the producing person of the same and cooperate with the producing person to address and remedy the breach. Nothing herein shall preclude the producing person from asserting legal claims or constitute a waiver of legal rights or defenses in the event of litigation arising out of the receiving person’s failure to appropriately protect PII from unauthorized disclosure.
15. This Protective Order shall survive the termination of the litigation. Within 30 days of the final disposition of this action, all Discovery Material designated as “Confidential,” and all copies thereof, shall be promptly returned to the producing person, or, upon permission of the producing person, destroyed.
16. All persons subject to this Protective Order acknowledge that willful violation of this Protective Order could subject them to punishment for contempt of Court. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over all persons subject to this Protective Order to the extent necessary to enforce any obligations arising hereunder or to impose sanctions for any contempt thereof.

SO STIPULATED AND AGREED:

<p>PARONICH LAW, P.C..</p> <p>By: <u>/s/ Anthony Paronich</u> Anthony Paronich 350 Lincoln Street, Suite 2400 Hingham, MA 02043 (508) 221-1510 anthony@paronichlaw.com</p> <p><i>Attorneys for Plaintiff and Class</i></p>	<p>BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP</p> <p>By: <u>/s/ Darci F. Madden</u> Darci F. Madden, 51463MO 211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600 St. Louis, MO 63102 (314) 259-2000 darci.madden@bclplaw.com</p> <p>Martha Kohlstrand (<i>pro hac vice</i>) Annalisa Kolb (<i>pro hac vice</i>) 1801 13th St. #300 Boulder, CO 80302 (303) 444-5955 martha.kohlstrand@bclplaw.com annalisa.kolb@bclplaw.com</p> <p><i>Attorneys for Defendant Lee Enterprises, Inc.</i></p>
<p>Dated: June 25, 2025</p>	<p>Dated: June 25, 2025</p>
<p>DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at St. Louis, Missouri, this ____ day of June 2025.</p>	
<p>JOHN A. ROSS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE</p>	

EXHIBIT A

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

SARAH GENENBACHER, individually)	
and on behalf of all others similarly)	
situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. 4:25-cv-00084-JSD
)	
v.)	
)	
LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

I, _____, state that:

1. My address is _____.
2. My present occupation or job description is _____.
3. I have received a copy of the So-ordered Stipulated Protective Order (the “Protective Order”) entered in the above-entitled action on _____.
4. I have carefully read and understand the provisions of the Protective Order.
5. I will comply with all of the provisions of the Protective Order, as applicable to me.
6. I will hold in confidence, will not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Protective Order, and will use only for purposes of this action, any Confidential Discovery Material that is disclosed to me.
7. I will return all Confidential Discovery Material that comes into my possession, and documents or things that I have prepared relating thereto, to counsel for the party by whom I am employed or retained, or to counsel from whom I received the Confidential Discovery Material.

8. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of enforcement of the Protective Order in this action.

Dated: _____

Print Name: _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 25th day of June 2025, the foregoing was filed electronically with the Clerk of the Court, to be served electronically by operation of the Court's electronic filing system upon all parties.

DATED: June 25, 2025

/s/ Darci F. Madden

Darci F. Madden, MO #51463

BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

*Attorneys for Defendant Lee Enterprises,
Incorporated*